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MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 11 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the Declaration and the Memorandum concerning the Kosovo Declaration of the Presidents, H.E. Mr. Kiro Gligorov of the Republic of Macedonia and H.E. Mr. Sulejman Demirel of Turkey (see annexes I and II).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 81.

(Signed) Denko MALESKI
Ambassador

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ANNEX I

Declaration issued at Ankara on 29 June 1996

The President of the Republic of Turkey, His Excellency Sulejman Demirel, and the President of the Republic of Macedonia, His Excellency Kiro Gligorov, underlined the need to secure conditions for peace, stability and harmony in the region. They expressed their concern over the escalation of tensions in Kosovo which may have wider repercussions in the Balkan region. With a view to finding a peaceful and democratic solution to the problem, the two Presidents called for an immediate commencement of dialogue between the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo with full respect to the principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

They shared the view that this dialogue could be facilitated with the assistance of the international community and a mutually acceptable mediator.

Expressing their desire to strengthen and enhance the stability in the region, the two Presidents called upon the leaders in the region to join in these common efforts.

ANNEX II

Memorandum concerning the Kosovo Declaration
of Presidents Gligorov and Demirel

At the end of the official part of the visit to the Republic of Turkey, Presidents Kiro Gligorov and Sulejman Demirel, deeply concerned about the complexity of the situation in Kosovo and the possibility of repercussions regarding peace and stability in the Balkans, announced a Declaration which is in the spirit of the well-known peaceful policy of the two countries. The basic determination for urgent commencement of dialogue to solve the remaining problems, with complete implementation and respect of the principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), prevails in the Declaration.

Therefore, the position of the international community is completely respected that the territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is not and cannot be questioned, as well as the need of respecting the relevant international standards regarding the protection of human rights, as contributions to universal civilization.

The Declaration's motive serves one purpose only - to promote open dialogue as the only acceptable means of solving any dispute, whether internal or international. There is no alternative to the dialogue, which is especially necessary for the question of minority rights in the corps of human rights in the Balkans. As neighbours we are directly interested in a peaceful solution to the disputed issues in the region, since we consider such a dialogue not to be harmful, and the benefit to be many sided. Above all, this is a benefit for the citizens of Kosovo in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia since it raises prospects for solving the problems and will significantly contribute to the strengthening of the stability in the region.

At the same time, this initiative is in line with the determinations for preventive action, which was promoted as an affirmative experience by the Republic of Macedonia on the international scene. For the accomplishment of this noble action, it is necessary to have the support of other leaders of the countries in the region, hence the appeal included in the Declaration for their active participation.